

REMARKS

These remarks are in response to the Final Office Action mailed on October 3, 2003. The Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating the allowability of claims 15 and 24. The Office Action rejected claims 18, 19, 22, and 26 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by Roberts et al. (U.S. patent number 5,576,757), and claims 1-14, 16, 17, 20, 21, 23, and 25 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a). Although believed allowable in their original forms, independent claims 1 and 18 have been amended and are believed allowable for the reasons given below. Consequently, the present Amendment is being filed along with a Request for Continued Examination (RCE). A Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement is also being filed along with the RCE in order to cite references cited by the Examiner in a related case.

Claims 18-23 and 26

Claim 18 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by Roberts et al. and claims 19-23 and 26 are all dependent upon claim 18. As discussed in the previous Amendment, and noted in the Response to Arguments portion of the present Office Action with respect to claim 18, in Roberts et al. it is only a part of the image (the particular pixel or pixels currently being digitized) that is passing through the cited sample and hold elements of Roberts et al. at given time. Roberts et al. neither teaches nor suggests the storage of a significant part of the image or the image as a whole prior to transmitting portions of the analog data corresponding to the image for digital signal processing.

In its Response to Arguments portion, the present Office Action states that this limitation is not found in the original claim 18. Specifically, the Office Action notes in the last paragraph of page 4 that "While it is true that Roberts does not teach that an entire image is stored in the sample-and-hold circuitry 18 at a given time, Roberts *does* disclose an apparatus for 'storing said electrical signals as analog data' (column 7, lines 4-9). The claim does not include a limitation that precludes the other steps from occurring simultaneously." As argued in the previous Amendment, the Applicants believe that this limitation is inherent in the original version of claim 18; however, although believed allowable in its original form, independent claim 18 has been amended to make this limitation more explicit.

Claim 18 has now been amended to read as follows, where the changes are highlighted:

A method for digital imaging, the method comprising:
converting an image into electrical signals;

subsequently storing said image converted into said electrical signals as analog data; and
subsequently transmitting portions of said stored analog data for digital signal processing.

Consequently, it is respectfully submitted that a rejection of claim 18 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by Roberts et al. is not well founded and that claim 18 and its dependent claims, claims 19-23 and 26, are allowable over the cited prior art.

Claims 1-14, 16, 17, and 25

Similarly, the distinctions from the prior art described above with respect to claim 18 are also believed to present in claim 1, as also described in the previous Amendment; however, to again make these distinctions more explicit, claim 1 has been amended as follows:

A digital imaging system comprising:
an image sensor to convert an image into analog data;
image processing and compression circuits; and
a high density analog/multi-level memory coupled between said image sensor and said image processing and compression circuits to receive and temporarily store said image converted into analog data from said image sensor and subsequently transmit said analog data to said image processing and compression circuits.

The limitation of being able to store the entire image in a "memory coupled between said image sensor and said image processing and compression circuits" is neither taught nor suggested in either Roberts, as is noted in the Office Action, or the newly introduced Ohmi reference, either taken alone or in conjunction. Consequently, it is respectfully submitted that a rejection of claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) based on these references is not well founded and that claim 1 and its dependent claims, claims 2-14, 16, 17, and 25, are allowable over the cited prior art.

Conclusion

For these reasons, claims 1-14, 16-23, 25, and 26 are believed allowable. Further, a number of the dependent claims are believed further allowable for the reasons, which will not be repeated at this time, given in the previous Amendment. Reconsideration of claims 1-14,

16-23, 25, and 26 is respectfully requested and an early indication of their allowability is earnestly solicited.

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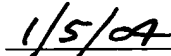
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Respectfully submitted,



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